T/SOR/49/1/20

PEOPLE NOT PROFIT

Issue 2 **Acting Locally, Acting Globally** free

EUROPEAN MONEY POURS IN FOR US

AND GETS DIVERTED INTO THE POCKETS OF THE WELL OFF

More than 60% of adults in Liverpool earn less than £10,000 a year, according to the latest "Wealth of the Nation" survey. The areas of Vauxhall, Seaforth and Kirkby are in the lowest income bracket, with Vauxhall bottom at an average of £9,100. (The national average household income is £23,000.)

Figures produced by the North Liverpool Partnership show Vauxhall is tops when it comes to death rates from injury and disease. You are 2½ times more likely to die early, if you live here, than the national average.

According to Barnardo's recent study on health inequalities, the poorest children are twice as likely to die by the age of 15 as those from families with higher incomes.

And Sefton Council is sending out information leaflets on early detection of cancer, because the disease causes ⅓ of all premature deaths in the area.

So what happens to all that Money Europe gives Liverpool?

Well here's where the latest £10 million is going.

- Kings Dock, £1m:
- Pier Head ferry terminal, £150,000:
- Liverpool Vision masterplan, nearly £1m:
- Bluecoat Triangle, £250,000:
- Chavasse Park, at least £500,000:
- Roman Catholic Cathedral and site, up to £1.5m:
- Stanley Dock, £300,000:
- Liverpool Football Club's new stadium, at least £100,000:
- Liverpool Airport, £8.1m:
- International Garden Festival, £50,000:
- Richmond House, £200,000:
- Beetham Tower, £200,000:
- Liverpool First, £1.25m:
- Moorfields, estimated £250,000:
- Hotel demand study, £6,000:

The "Liverpool Vision Masterplan" requires a manager – salary £100,000. Interested? Ring 0151-233 3000

Just like a recent report shows: architects, surveyors, lawyers, letting agents and specialist consultants are all collecting fees 'on an unprecedented scale'. Meaning the latest flow of money from Europe will not go on local people to improve our lives, it will go on people who are already some of the highest earners in Liverpool. People who will increase their bank balances by collecting huge amounts by looking at buildings, sitting in meetings and writing reports, And bear in mind this money is only being spent on feasibility studies and surveys, as the report admits 'the plans may never get off the ground'. Tim Johnston, whose Liverpool-based firm Amion Consulting said: "It's a buoyant time for the professional services in the city'.

And what do you think the city will get, at the end of it, if the plans do go ahead? – More trendy pubs, more statues of dead people who made their fortunes off the backs of the people of this city, more ridiculous statues of animals? More hotels, casinos or places were the majority of Liverpool people would not be welcome. More ways for the business elite to make money?

PNP have a better suggestion for the money; let's ask the people of Liverpool what they want? Maybe the first thing would be to sack all the leaches oh, er sorry 'Professionals'. Then set up committees and discuss what our communities need - better housing, better repairs, decent jobs instead of slave labour, more and better equipped community and youth centres, better facilities and support for the elderly. More money into local education. And for the city centre? Cheap affordable cafes, decent transport, decent facilites. And as for the so-called artist quarter? We know hundreds of local artists, musicians, poets who given the right opportunity and support would advance a lot more the cultural richness this city is famous for.

If any of the companies in this article would like to reply and tell us how many local people will benefit from these studies or the possible development afterwards, please contact us. Address overleaf

People Not Profit are a collective who aim to work in a number of ways to resist oppression and promote Anti-Capitalism principles and ideas.We do this and will continue to do this through art, poetry, theatre, music, social events, demos, newsletters, the distribution of literature and any other creative and interesting way we think will promote our ideas. We also promote and support any cause that fights against corporations and capitalism, and we are building and will continue to build a network of volunteers whose ideas and beliefs are like ours - to fight and expose this corrupt capitalist system. We also aim to publicise and become an umbrella group and focal point for individuals and groups who are sympathetic to our aims.

Environmental issues are not just a global concern, our health and living conditions are being attacked locally as well. Merseyside Hazards & Environmental Centre has been set up to give people the opportunity to take on such issues themselves.

For info or advice ring: 0151 726 9595.

We cannot take communion from the altars of a dominant culture which confuses price with value and converts people and countries into merchandise. **Eduardo Galeano**

With AIDS sweeping through Africa like the plague, the world's most powerful drug companies are showing the usual corporate compassion by taking the South African government to court to stop cheap drugs being used to help people with HIV. More Info. **www.schnews.co.uk**

Jim Mochnacz worked for British Telecom's Cellnet for eight years, initially siting and installing mobile phone transmission masts, before managing installations throughout a third of Britain. At the end of this period, Mochnacz fell seriously ill with problems of memory loss, chronic tiredness, personality changes, a permanent ringing in his head, and a feeling of constriction around his skull like a metal band tightening. "When I was working on transmission masts I had such huge electrical currents going through my head that my teeth would clamp together," Mochnacz says. "I couldn't wear a digital watch, the LCD display just faded away on my wrist. To stop my jaws clamping, I had to have all my metal fillings removed." Ten years on, the problems remain: "I'm convinced I've got 'microwave poisoning', for want of a better phrase."

Arm yourself with knowledge, because big companies won't tell you the truth, they have only one interest - Profit. (PNP)

LOCAL ROUND UP

CAPITAL OF POLLUTION

LIVERPOOL and Manchester have the worst air pollution of any cities in the country outside London, according to a new report by the Environment Agency.

Although improvements have been made during the past two decades, watchdogs found recommended standards for nitrogen dioxide levels were exceeded once every 12 days, on average. The problem got so bad that in 1999 Sefton Council were forced to alert asthma sufferers and those with breathing problems when smog pollution had reached danger levels.

LORD MAYOR UNHAPPY

Liverpool's Lord Mayor is to receive a 23% pay rise for working as the city's first citizen.

But Cllr Eddie Clein says that even with the £3,000 increase, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool will still be paid far less than those of Birmingham and Manchester.

"The extra allowance will, of course, help. Out of what I receive I have to pay things like a £25-a-week dry cleaning bill and the cost of some hospitality."

TOXIC WASTE COME BACK.

Twelve families are moving back to Weston, the village near Runcorn at the centre of a toxic gas scare. The familes were forced to leave a year ago after ICI warned them hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD) was seeping through sandstone beneath Weston from the local quarries. They were used by ICI to dump chemical waste more than 25 years ago.

The vapour, has the potential of causing kidney damage.

SEFTON COUNCIL SIDE WITH SHARKS

Despite opposition from Unison, care workers and the local community, Sefton Council recently voted to go ahead with plans to close three care homes in Sefton. People Not Profit drummers attended the lively protest at Bootle Town Hall against the closures, but councillors ignored the widespread opposition, and decided to push the responsibility for the care of the elderly, disabled and young people further towards privatisation, and further towards the Sharks waiting in the wings to make a fortune.

Campaigners intend to step up their protests.

PRESCOTT OUSTS DEMOCRACY

Despite the public protests and opposition that overturned Merseyside Development Corporation's plan to turn the Pier Head terminal into a giant car park, Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott has now stepped in and given it the go-ahead. The evidence that the government and local authorities are not in the slightest concerned about public opinion and are just lackeys for business men is getting clearer and clearer all the time.

If you have a story to tell that isn't being told, about a campaign in your local community – or if you have a tale of injustice – don't hesitate to contact People Not Profit. (address overleaf). We know that if we are struggling alone we have very little power to make changes, but together in our common concerns and causes we can not only change our city we can change the world.

TOXIC CITY

JUST DUMP IT IN LIVERPOOL

Liverpool City Council are currently considering using Merseyside as a testing ground for toxic waste disposal. A 'pyrolysis' incineration plant could be sited at Stonebridge Lane waste depot in Gillmoss, and would be the first of its type in the country.

As we reported in Issue 1, the council claims that this new technology of 'pyrolysis' is safer than other methods of incineration. The Environment Agency recently admitted they have no idea how dangerous the new generation of incinerators will be. Toxic residues are still produced by pyrolysis. One company, Siemens, withdrew from the market after one of their plants in Germany had hospitalised people living nearby when toxic emissions leaked from a pyrolysis plant.

Liverpool City Council's scheme is the opposite of what the people of Merseyside want. A survey conducted in 1999 by the Mersey Waste Disposal Authority found that 89% of people in the Merseyside Area prefer a kerbside recycling system to any other option for waste disposal. And in 2000, a Citizens Jury came up with the same findings.

One feature of pyrolysis plants is that they require to be fed constantly with highly burnable wastes such as plastic and paper. There is therefore no incentive to recycle or cut back on waste. In the US some local municipal authorities have been forced to import waste from outside in order to comply with their contract. The Merseyside Councils would be locked into a deal that guarantees the local production of toxic waste for the foreseeable future. This is why the Council is playing down kerbside collection as an option. The plant would operate alongside a highly inefficient waste sorting facility to produce the necessary volume of waste for burning. One similar facility in Ipswich had to be closed down because it was only able to recycle 10% of the waste it processed. Kerbside collection typically recycles 80% of possible waste, creates more jobs and improves the financial stability of local communities.

If Liverpool City Council get their way, the city will become a toxic testing ground for a new generation of highly dangerous technologies. And the only winners would be the multinational waste disposal companies that stand to profit from it; Merseyside local authorities will subsidise the toxic profiteers to the tune of around £2million a year. The Liverpool Citizens Jury, on hearing of these plans in June, decided to carry on meeting, and have been campaigning for kerbside collections & against the pyrolysis plans ever since. Because of this campaign, the council has had to delay & reconsider their hairbrained scheme.

For more info: **726 9595**

PRINCES PARK PROTEST CONTINUES

There's a beautiful, wild corner of Princes Park known as Park Nook which people have enjoyed for years as a place to relax. Hardly anybody knew it was privately owned until a fence went up around it in May 1999. The 'owners' had gained planning permission to build two blocks of flats.

In a show of spontaneous community action, shocked local people dismantled the fence, built tree houses with the wood, and started a protest camp. The 'Save Park Nook' campaign grew and became a focus for many peoples' frustration at the seemingly unchecked cycle of development under which the city is going.

Eighteen months on, those who have been involved or who have followed events will be interested to hear that a legal contest to register the land as a Town Green should come to a conclusion soon. The details of this contest are too wordy to explain fully here, other than to say that there will be a hearing sometime early in February. When we know the date, we will distribute a leaflet. The more people who can attend the better!

For more info ring **Friends of Princes Park** on **0780 360 9721.**

CAPITALISM DOESN'T MAKE YOU HAPPY, HONEST?

According to the Worldwatch Institute, we have used more goods and services since 1950 than in all the rest of human history. But we still don't seem to be happy. Indeed, over the same period, 25-year-olds in Britain have become 10 times more likely to be afflicted by depression.

One in four British adults now suffers from a chronic lack of sleep, and one fifth of schoolchildren have psychological problems. Over the past 13 years, mental health insurance claims have risen by 36%. American studies suggest that between 40% and 60% of the population suffers from mental illness in any one year. The World Health Organisation predicts that by 2010 depression will become the second commonest disease in the developed world.

Does this tell us that something isn't quiet right about the way we live? see. **www.lbbs.org**

In 1999 the world's power brokers spent an estimated $719 billion of our money to run their military machines, or armed forces, of which more than two-thirds ($520 billion) was spent by Europe and North America alone. This is 14 times more than is needed to eradicate the very worst - 'absolute' - poverty from the world. (New Internationalist). **www.newint.org**

Britian has been singled out as having one of the worst records on childhood poverty in the industrialsied world according to UNICEF. Nearly "30% of young Britons live in families that are below the official poverty line compared with 3.9 % in Norway. see.**www.newint.org**

Coming Events/Meetings

resistance is fertile.

GLOBALISE RESITANCE Counter-Conference - Liverpool University. Sat 10th Feb. 12-7pm. info: **07947 645 289**

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY- Sat 27th April. Every year thousands of workers die due to company negligence and bad health & safety conditions. Interested in getting involved, contact PNP address below.

MAD WOMEN - radical campaigning organisation for women with an interest in Mental Health - meets 3rd Friday of every month at Friends Meeting House, Paradise St. 10.30 - 12.30. info: **707 4308**

STEPS - A campaigning self-help group for women who self-injure. Meets ever Thursday 6.30 - 8.30pm. Second Floor News From Nowhere, 96 Bold Street. Info: **734 4838**

PEOPLE NOT PROFIT have many meetings, protests and social events coming up right throughout February: watch out for posters, leaflets and drummers around town or contact us.

LOCAL/GLOBAL ROUND UP

PNP SOLIDARITY WITH THE INTIFIDA

People not Profit is outraged by the recent events in Palestine, and by the mainstream media's slant on them. The fighting is often presented as a war between equal sides, whereas an army of occupation, i.e. Israel, is oppressing and murdering an impoverished minority community within its so-called borders.

Of the 300 plus deaths in the uprising, the vast majority have been Palestinians, many of them youths throwing stones killed by tanks and helicopter gunships. Atrocities committed against Palestinians are hardly mentioned, in contrast to the much smaller number of Israeli victims.

This racist bias is not new or surprising. The setting up of the state of Israel in 1948, masterminded by the US and Britain, was a brutal violation of the Palestinians' right to live in their own homeland. They were violently evicted from their homes, their villages bulldozed, and whole communities massacred. All this was justified in the name of Biblical prophecy - that a homeland for the Jews should be set up in Palestine – Zionism. This whole Zionist cause was used to create a Middle East state which is bankrolled by the US to keep control of the area and its people, oil, resources and profits.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip today are like a vast sealed prison camp. The Israeli authorities close roads and border crossings arbitrarily, stopping freedom of movement, and cut off electricity and water supplies without warning. Palestinian farms are still being burned down and their land illegally seized by Jewish settlers.

Events are taking place in Liverpool to mark the horror of the Holocaust, organised by Sefton Holocaust Memorial Project, for local schoolchildren. It is necessary and right that new generations should be taught about that history, but how ironic that a Zionist state, which claims to represent Jewish people who have suffered pogroms for centuries, is itself oppressing another people.

And new generations also need to learn about other holocausts and the one particularly relevant to this city, the Slave Trade.

For more information about Palestinian history or how you can support the Palestinian cause see: ***www.oneworld.org & www.lbbs.org***

POLITICAL PRISONERS MURDERED

People Not Profit along with people from the Turkish and Kurdish community, carried out a spontaneous protest on 23rd December on Church Street, making people aware that the Turkish Authorities were storming Turkish prisons and killing Political prisoners, many of whom had been on Hunger Strike for 60 days. The hunger strike was against the enforced plan by the Turkish government to separate prisoners from large style communal cells and put them in either solitary confinement cells or cells for two or three, thus isolating political prisoners, so they can do what they want with them. Turkey has a ruthless right-wing government and has not only bombed villages and killed 30,000 Kurdish people over the last 15 years, but it also tortures and murders Turkish political opponents. PNP and OZTUDAK got a great response from the public.More info: Contact **OZTUDAK. 02079237847** or **www.labournet.net**

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